

REMARKS

The Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the comments set forth in the Office Action that was mailed June 13, 2008. All of the rejections are respectfully traversed. Amendment, reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

In the Office Action that was mailed June 13, 2008:

claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0053612 by Henrikson et al. ("Henrikson").

The Present Application

By way of brief review, the present application is related to methods and systems that facilitate the establishment of a conference call. For example, such a method includes receiving a conference scheduling call from a conference call originator, receiving identification information regarding desired call participants from the conference call originator during the received conference scheduling call, receiving conference call parameter information from the conference call originator in the received conference scheduling call and sending invitations to the desired conference participants based on the identification information, the invitations including response requests.

For example, a communications network component such as a switch, switching center or network adjunct receives the conference scheduling call and the identification information and call parameters and sends the invitations to the desired conference participants (e.g., page 6, lines 23-26).

The method can also include receiving a group name as part of or in association with the received identification information. The group name can be referenced in subsequent conference scheduling calls. For example, a conference call to schedule a practice can be associated with the group name --soccer team--. A set of co-workers assigned to a first project can be associated with the group name --alpha project-- and a second set of co-workers can be associated with the group name --beta project--. These associations can be stored. Accordingly,

identification information provided in subsequent conference scheduling calls can simply include a reference to the group name in lieu of providing detailed contact information for each desired conference participant.

The Cited Documents

Henrikson discloses a conference establishment server that coordinates the scheduling of a conference call (see Abstract). Preferably, according to the method of Henrikson, a conference call request "is in the form of a webpage interface accessible by a user terminal or any other terminal device that couples to a multimedia communications system" (paragraph 23).

The Claims Are Not Anticipated

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Henrikson.

In an effort to support the assertion that Henrikson discloses a method and system operative to facilitate the establishment of a conference call, the method comprising receiving a conference scheduling call from a conference call originator, the Office Action cites reference numeral 202 of Fig. 2 and paragraph 22 of Henrikson. Clarification in this regard is respectfully requested.

Additionally, **claim 1** has been amended and now recites *inter alia*: receiving identification information..., wherein the identification information includes a group name regarding the desired conference participants.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to **claim 1** is supported throughout the specification, including, for example, original **claim 7**. Accordingly, the amendment to **claim 1** does not require a new search.

It is noted that with regard to original **claim 7**, the Office Action cites paragraph 22. Clarification and identification of a portion of paragraph 22 that discloses that receiving identification information regarding desired conference call participants includes receiving a group name regarding the desired conference participants is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, **claim 1**, as well as **claims 2-18** which depend therefrom, is not anticipated by Henrikson.

Regarding **claim 3**, the Office Action cites paragraph 27. Clarification and identification of a specific portion of paragraph 27 that the Office characterizes as

disclosure of receiving a conference editing call is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing additional reasons, **claim 3** is not anticipated by Henrikson.

Claim 7 has been amended and now recites: storing the group name in association with the identification information regarding the desired conference participants, whereby in a subsequent conference request the group name identifies all the desired participants.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to **claim 7** is supported throughout the specification including, for example, paragraph 31.

It is respectfully submitted that Henrikson does not disclose the subject matter of amended **claim 7**.

With regard to **claims 9 and 10**, the Office Action only cites reference numeral 408 of Fig. 4 of Henrikson. However, Fig. 4 is a flowchart illustrating a method for establishing a prescheduled conference call (paragraph 12) and reference numeral 408 is associated with sending notification that conference time is approaching. Accordingly, reference numeral 408 does not disclose wherein receiving conference call parameter information (i.e., in a conference scheduling call) comprises receiving at least one proposed conference call time, as recited in **claim 9** or comprises receiving a purpose regarding the conference call, as recited in **claim 10**.

For at least the foregoing additional reasons, **claims 9 and 10** are not anticipated by Henrikson.

With regard to **claim 12**, the Office Action cites paragraph 33. However, paragraph 33 discusses sending notifications that a previously established conference time is near (e.g., five minutes prior) and does not disclose or suggest sending invitations comprises: sending synthesized voice announcements to user equipment of the desired participants. Clarification of the assertions of the Office Action in this regard is respectfully requested.

With regard to **claim 13**, the Office Action cites paragraph 80. However, Henrikson only includes 36 paragraphs. Further in this regard, it is noted that a Mr. Thomas Tillander, one of the representatives of the Applicants, left a voice mail message for the Examiner on or about June 30, 2008, requesting clarification regarding this citation (and others). However, the Examiner did not respond to this request.

Additionally, the Applicants have reviewed Henrikson and were unable to find

a portion that discloses that sending invitations includes sending a menu of proposed conference times. Clarification in this regard is respectfully requested.

With regard to **claims 14** and **15**, the Office Action again cites reference numeral 408 of Fig. 4. However, **claims 14** and **15** are related to sending invitations (i.e., prior to actually scheduling a call) and reference numeral 408 is related to sending reminders or notifications that the scheduled conference time is approaching (e.g., five minutes prior to the scheduled conference call; paragraph 33). Accordingly, reference numeral 408 does not support the assertions that Henrikson discloses sending invitations comprises: sending a request for an alternate conference time proposal, as recited in **claim 14** or sending a request that proposed conference times be ranked according to preference, as recited in **claim 15**.

For at least the foregoing additional reasons, **claims 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13-15** are not anticipated by Henrikson.

The Office Action cites Figs. 2 and 4 and paragraphs 22, 26, 27, and 34 in an effort to support the assertion that Henrikson discloses seven of the elements recited in **claim 19** and cites Fig. 2 and Fig. 4 more generally with regard to eight other elements of **claim 19**.

Among these assertions, is the assertion that Henrikson discloses receiving a conference scheduling call from a conference call originator. Clarification in this regard is respectfully requested.

Additionally, **claim 19** has been amended to recite --wherein the identification information includes a group name regarding the desired conference participants--. As indicated above, it is respectfully submitted that Henrikson does not disclose identification information includes a group name.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to **claim 19** is supported throughout the specification, including, for example, paragraph 31 and original **claim 7**.

For at least the foregoing reasons, **claim 19**, as well as **claims 20-22**, which depend therefrom, is not anticipated in light of Henrikson.

With regard to **claim 22**, the Office Action asserts that Fig. 2 and Fig. 4 disclose wherein sending reminder messages comprises sending synthesized voice messages to user equipment of the desired participants. However, it is respectfully submitted that Fig. 2 and Fig. 4 do not disclose sending reminder messages comprises sending synthesized voice messages to user equipment of the desired

participants. Clarification of the assertion of the Office Action is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing additional reasons, **claim 22** is not anticipated by Henrikson.

Claim 23 has also been amended to recite *inter alia*: a conference request interface operative to communicate with a conference organizer to collect conference information including contact information regarding at least one desired conference participant, a group name regarding the at least one desired conference participant and a set of conference parameters including at least one proposed conference time.

In regard to the recitation of a set of conference parameters including at least one proposed conference time, the Office Action cites paragraph 22. Clarification in this regard is respectfully requested. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that Henrikson does not disclose a conference request interface operative to collect a group name.

For at least the foregoing reasons, **claim 23**, as well as **claims 24-29**, which depend therefrom, is not anticipated by Henrikson.

Claim 27 recites wherein the invitation generator is further operative to generate invitations including a request for an alternate proposed conference time. In this regard, the Office Action cites reference numeral 216 of Fig. 2.

However, reference numeral 216 identifies --tentatively scheduled conference--. In this regard, paragraph 27 indicates that a time out override option permits tentative scheduling of the conference call without undue delay in spite of lack of critical confirmation. If there is a time out override option, then when the time out period expires, the conference is tentatively scheduled, even though critical participants may not be confirmed (216). It is respectfully submitted that reference numeral 216 does not disclose the generation of invitations including a request for an alternate proposed conference time. Clarification of the assertions of the Office is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing additional reasons, **claim 27** is not anticipated by Henrikson.

With regard to **claim 28**, the Office Action cites paragraph 223. However, as noted above, Henrikson includes only 36 paragraphs. Clarification of the assertions of the Office is respectfully requested.

With regard to the recitation of means for receiving a conference scheduling

call from a conference call originator in **claim 30**, the Office Action cites Fig. 2, item 202. However, Fig. 2 is a flowchart illustrating a method for scheduling multimedia conference services (paragraph 10) and depicts the entrance of a conference call request including critical information. It is respectfully submitted that Fig. 2, item 202, does not disclose a means for receiving a conference scheduling call. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that Fig. 2, item 202, does not disclose the same means for receiving a conference scheduling call as disclosed in the present application.

Additionally, with regard to the recitation of means for receiving identification information, the Office Action cites item 204 of Fig. 2. However, the cited portion of Fig. 2 recites --check participant and resource availability according to request--. It is respectfully submitted that this element of Fig. 2 does not disclose or suggest means for receiving identification information regarding desired conference call participants from the conference call originator in the received scheduling call, as recited in **claim 30**.

Moreover, **claim 30** has been amended and the subject element further recites --wherein the identification information includes a group name regarding the desired conference participants--. It is respectfully submitted that Henrikson does not disclose the means for receiving identification information disclosed in the present application, wherein the identification information includes a group name regarding the desired conference participants.

For at least the foregoing reasons, **claim 30** is not anticipated by Henrikson.

Telephone Interview

In the interests of advancing this application to issue, the Applicant(s) respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss the foregoing or any suggestions that the Examiner may have to place the case in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-30 remain in the application. Claims 1, 7, 19, 23 and 30 have been amended. For at least the foregoing reasons, the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early indication thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
- ☐ transmitted via facsimile in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below.
- ☒ transmitted to the USPTO by electronic transmission via EFS-Web on the date indicated below.

Express Mail Label No.:	Signature <u>Roseanne Giuliani</u>
Date September 15, 2008	Printed Name Roseanne Giuliani